(c) what are the causes for such frequent bursting of tyre of Air India aircraft; and

(d) what are the measures taken to minimise such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Recently there was no tyre burst incident to Air India aircraft while landing. However, there was a brake fire incident to Air India Airbus aircraft VT-EHQ while landing at Trivandrum airport on 21st December, 1986.

(c) Fire was due to No. 4 wheel brake assembly overheating.

(d) Remedial measures are taken by initiating action on the findings of the inquiry.

Posts offices in Madhya Pradesh

1800. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans of Government regarding covering the remaining villages of Madhya Pradesh with the Post Offices during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) by when all the villages of Madhya Pradesh will have Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) 113 groups of villages have been identified in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh especially in the hilly, backward and tribal areas for opening of post offices during the current Five Year Plan period. The actual number of post offices that may be opened will, however, depend on the extent of approval that the Ministry of Finance may grant as the ban on creation of posts is still in force.

(b) The rural postal system is based on the pattern that a post office is opened at an important village and some of the surrounding villages are attached to it for rendering postal service. The attached villages are visited, normally daily, by village postmen/delivery agents/branch postmasters for delivery of dak, payment of money orders, sale of postage stamps and stationery and for collection of registered and unregistered postal articles for despatch. There are 71,352 villages in Madhya Pradesh which are served by 9405 rural post offices. There is, therefore, no question of opening a post office in every village as there is no need for it.

Foreign Airlines to operate in the country

1801. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 14th April, 1987 captioned "Wider consideration worry Air India Officials";

(b) whether it is a fact that several countries are willing to come forward and operate their fleet services in India reciprocally; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take for selecting the countries which are equally competent to fly their planes to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Various countries have from time to time approached India for operation of their air services. Air services arrangements between two countries are bilaterally negotiated and settled on the basis of mutual benefits, traffic potential, commercial interests, principle of reciprocity, technical considerations and overall policy.